OMCs have introduced different colours for domestic and non-domestic LPG cylinders for controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

ONGC rigs

3306. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rigs available with ONGC;

(b) the number of rigs in use;

(c) whether ONGC is hiring any rig from M/s RIL;

(d) if so, the hiring charges per day and the number of rig-days estimated for use;

(e) whether any competitive bid was sought before hiring; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The number of rigs available and in use with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are as under:

Number of Rigs available	Number of rigs in use	Rigs under repairs/ up-gradation
112	103	9

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. ONGC placed a letter of award on RIL for hiring an ultra Deepwater Drilling rig on assignment basis for 4 years. Rig operating day rates are US $ 495,000 for the first 180 days and US $510,000 thereafter.

As reported by ONGC, two ultra deepwater rigs were contracted in 2008 through two International Competitive Bidding (ICB) tenders with mobilization schedule by December 2010. No rig was available for earlier mobilization. In view of the non-availability of the deep water rigs of 3000 M capability before December 2010 and considering exploration program in deep and ultra deep water areas, ONGC continued its efforts for getting rigs earlier than December 2010 by publishing an Expression of Interest (EO) in newspapers and in ONGC website on 13.1.2009 for hiring rigs of various water depth capabilities. Considering the response of EOI, a limited tender was floated with mobilization on or before December 2010.

Meanwhile, in a meeting on 5.1.2009, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) informed about the possibility of sharing of ultra deep water rig with ONGC. Subsequently, ONGC was approached by RIL for sharing deepwater rigs from the contracts which RIL had entered into with other rig contractors. After discussions, RIL offered one deep water rig of 10000 ft. capability *i.e.* Rig Dhirubhai Deepwater KG 1 (DDKG1) for 4 years to NOGC. The contract for DDKG 1 is between RIL and Deep Water Pacific Inc for 5 years.

ONGC has further reported that from the availability point of view (*i.e.* Rig DDKG-1 was made available by end July, 2009) and also compared to Last Purchase Price rates against ICB tenders of ONGC for similar rigs and the rates received against the Limited tender for which price bid was opened on 4.5.2009, the rates of the rig offered by M/s RIL were found to be acceptable.

Cities covered by CNG/PNG

3307. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities covered in the country at present by CNG/PNG;

(b) whether Government proposes to cover 200 cities by 2015;

(c) if so, the time-bound action plan to cover cities in Eastern Zone like Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Patna and Ranchi; and

(d) the likely source of CNG/PNG to cover the cities in that Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As per information provided by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), 41 Gergraphical Areas are covered by CNG/PNG at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The development of CNG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities in a particular city/town/area depends *Inter alia* upon proximity to trunk natural gas pipelines, availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

Government has issued authorization for laying of Kakinada-Basudebpur-Haldia and Jagdishpur-Haldia trunk natural gas pipelines, which would pass through the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

(d) The likely sources of natural gas to cover these cities are indigenous discoveries from KG basin and Mahanadi basin and Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from LNG terminals.

Pipelines to supply KG Basin gas to Gujarat

3308. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: